

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 ARA-16 EB-11

COME-00 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /149 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1160

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 5527

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: SZYDLAK TO VISIT NEW YORK

REF A) WARSAW 5504 B) WARSAW A-166, MAY 23, 1974

1. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A VISA APPLICATION SEPTEMBER 11 FOR A POLISH SEJM DELEGATION WHICH WISHES TO SPEND UP TO FOUR DAYS IN NEW YORK (SEPTEMBER 19-23) ENROUTE TO MEXICO AND VENEZUELA FOR OFFICIAL VISITS. THE DELEGATION IS HEADED BY POLISH PARTY SECRETARY JAN SZYDLAK, ALSO A SEJM DEPUTY, AND INCLUDES SEJM DEPUTIES HALINA KILIS, JERZY NAWROCKI, LEON JANCZAK, ALSO IN THE GROUP ARE KAZIMIERZ SWITALA, DIRECTOR OF THE SEJM CHANCERY AND GIEREK'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, JERZY KOSIDLE, PERSONAL SECRETARY TO SZYDLAK, AND IZABELLA JANOWSKA-NOWAK, INTERPRETER.

2. AS WE SAID IN REF B, SZYDLAK IS NOW GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE PUTATIVE NUMBER TWO IN THE POLISH PARTY HIERARCHY AND THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF SPECULATION IN RECENT MONTHS THAT HE IS A LEADING CANDIDATE TO REPLACE JAROSZEWICZ AS PREMIER IF THE LATTER'S HEALTH FORCES HIM TO MOVE TO THE LESS DEMANDING, LARGELY CEREMONIAL POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNCIL OF STATE SOMETIME SOON.

3. SZYDLAK IS SAID TO HAVE POLITBIURO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC AND IDEOLOGICAL POLICY. HE IS A CLOSE ASSOCIAT OF GIEREK AND IS SAID TO EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON GIEREK IN ECONOMIC MATTERS. HE IS WIDELY HELD TO BE HARD-NOSED AND INFLEXIBLE ON IDEOLOGY BUT PRAGMATIC AND IMAGINATIVE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS.

4. SWITALA IS MARRIED TO FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK'S SISTER. HE IS A FORMER MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR WHO WAS REMOVED FROM THAT POSITION FOLLOWING THE WORKERS RIOTS IN GDANSK AND SZCZECIN IN DECEMBER 1970. HIS REMOVAL IS NOT BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY ANY PERSONAL FAILURE IN PERFORMANCE OF DUTY OR LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM BY THE NEW GIEREK ADMINISTRATION, BUT WAS DONE FOR REASONS OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY SINCE HIS NAME HAD BECOME ASSOCIATED IN THE POPULAR MIND WITH THE FORCEFUL QUELLING OF THE DECEMBER 1970 UPRISING. HE HAS A LEGAL EDUCATION AND IS GENERALLY HELD TO BE A VERY INTELLIGENT AND CLEVER MAN.

5. NONE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE KNOWN TO US IN ANY CAPACITY OTHER THAN THAT GIVEN IN THE VISA NOTE.

6. THE MFA INFORMS US THAT THE DELEGATION CURRENTLY PLANS TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 19 AND DEPART ON SEPTEMBER 22. ALTHOUGH THEIR PROPOSED SCHEDULE GIVES THEM ONLY TWO FULL DAYS IN THE UNITED STATES, THIS APPEARS TO BE A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER A PARTIAL IVP GRANT TO SZYDLAK, WHO IS YOUNG AND DYNAMIC AND ONE OF POLAND'S MOST INFLUENTIAL POLITICAL LEADERS AND TO SWITALA, WHO BOTH IN TERMS OF POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP TO GIEREK IS NOT WITHOUT INFLUENCE. OUR FILES INDICATE THAT NEITHER EVER HAS BEEN IN THE U.S.

7. WE WOULD SUGGEST OFFERING TO BRING THE ENTIRE SEJM GROUP TO WASHINGTON FOR A DAY OR TWO DAYS' PROGRAM OF MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS. PRESUMABLY, THEY COULD THEN FLY DIRECTLY FROM WASHINGTON ONWARD TO MEXICO, SINCE TIME IS SHORT, WE REQUEST AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT, SO THAT, IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN THIS PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSAL, WE CAN MAKE THE OFFER TO THE MFA NO LATER THAN FRIDAY OR SATURDAY MORNING.
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